



PARENT NOTES

Day 1: JESUS TEACHES ABOUT PEACE

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Thank you for entrusting your child to us for this special experience. We appreciate the chance to be with your child as we experiment and learn how to create peace in our world. However, we also know that you are the key person who will pass on faith to this child, so we will share with you what we are discussing each day and give you ideas for how to follow up with your child.

On Day 1, we discussed the Beatitude “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” (Matthew 5:9). This is not a passive ideal—it is active. Making peace requires action. What does active peacemaking look like? The second part of today’s Bible memory passage—“for they will be called children of God”—gives a clue about what it means to practice peace.

Practicing peace means that we love others. We are to love those who are our friends, and we are to love those who are not our friends. We follow God’s example to love others. This is not always easy to do.

Here are conversation starters and next steps for following up with your child today:

1. **“Tell me about the Beatitude you heard today.”** Ask follow-up questions or help fill in the details if they can’t remember them all. You can look it up (see right).
2. **“What does it mean to be a peacemaker anyway?”** Ask for examples of how they have been a peacemaker in the past and examples of how they might be one in future situations.
3. **“Can you think of examples of people you have seen be peacemakers?”** Feel free to offer your own examples too.
4. **Pray with your child**, perhaps at dinner or bedtime. You can use the prayer starter to the right to begin. This is also a good time for them to recite their Bible memory verse from the day (also on the right).

Thank you for all you do as a parent. We’re looking forward to spending more time with your child tomorrow!

—The Peace Lab team

FAITH FOCUS

Blessed are the peacemakers.

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 5:9, 43-48

BIBLE MEMORY

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

—Matthew 5:9

PRAYER STARTER

Thank you, Jesus, for teaching us by how you lived how to make peace. Help us to be peacemakers too.



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Day 2: ABRAM AND LOT

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Today, we focused on a story from Genesis about two people and families finding a way to make peace in the midst of a conflict. In the story, Abram and Sarai were on a journey to find a place to settle their family and livestock. They were wealthy, having accumulated silver, gold, and lots of livestock. Abram's nephew Lot is with them, and he also had livestock and tents. Their prosperity brought conflict among those who work for them as the herders disagreed over the land that would serve as pastures for their flocks.

Abram did not like the tension among the workers, so he spoke with Lot. Abram suggested that the two men no longer travel together: Lot should choose which way he will go, and then Abram would choose the opposite way.

Lot chose the most desirable land, the plains of Jordan, which are lush and green. Abram settles in the other direction, near Canaan, in land that is rocky and hilly. Abram was gracious in allowing his nephew to choose the better land and gracious in accepting Lot's choice. Abram found a peaceful way to solve the problem of the arguments among the herders.

Here are conversation starters for following up with your child today:

1. **"Tell me about the Bible story you heard today."** Ask follow-up questions or help them fill in the details if they can't remember them all. You can look it up (see right).
2. **"When have you had to share or divide something with a family member, friend, or classmate? How did you decide how to share it? How did it work out?"**
3. **Pray with your child**, perhaps at dinner or bedtime. You can use the prayer starter to the right to begin. This is also a good time for them to recite their Bible memory verse from the day (right).

Thank you for your help reinforcing what we learned today. Tomorrow we'll focus on another story from the Old Testament.

—The Peace Lab team

FAITH FOCUS

Peacemakers find good ways to solve problems.

BIBLE STORY

Genesis 13

BIBLE MEMORY

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

—Romans 12:16

PRAYER STARTER

God, help us to be problem-solvers and peacemakers like Abram.



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Day 3: NAOMI, RUTH, AND BOAZ

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The book of Ruth is a story of women living in a man's world, a story of relationships and love, and a story about helping those who are foreign and vulnerable in a strange land.

Though the story is usually told from the perspective of Ruth, it is Boaz who acts as a hero in this narrative. Ruth is a foreigner from Moab. There are stories in the Bible of hostility between Moab and Israel. Yet Boaz does not allow these divisions to keep him from helping Ruth. He practices what is written in the religious laws: "You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. You shall not abuse any widow or orphan" (Exodus 22:21-22).

Children have classmates and neighbors of various backgrounds; we live in multicultural societies. The story of Boaz helping Ruth is a relevant one as we consider how to develop relationships and friendships with those around us. There are many ways we can learn to be peacemakers by helping others!

Here are conversation starters and next steps for following up with your children today:

1. **"Tell me about the Bible story of Ruth you heard today."** Ask follow-up questions or help them fill in the details if they can't remember them all. You can look it up (see right).
2. **"When have you seen someone help someone else who was different from them?"** You can offer your own examples here too.
3. **"Who is someone you could offer to help whom you don't know that well?"**
4. **Pray with your child**, perhaps at dinner or bedtime. You can use the prayer starter to the right to begin. This is also a good time for them to recite their Bible memory verse from the day (also on the right).

We're halfway through, but have a lot of fun still to come!

—The *Peace Lab* team

FAITH FOCUS

Peacemakers help other people.

BIBLE STORY

Ruth 1-2

BIBLE MEMORY

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

—Romans 12:17

PRAYER STARTER

God, help us to keep our eyes open for people like Ruth who need our help.



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Day 4: **JONATHON, MICHAL, AND DAVID**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Sometimes it's hard to speak up for what is right. In today's Bible story, there's a lot of drama, yet what is striking throughout it is that the siblings Jonathan and Michal practiced peace by saying the right thing, even when it was difficult

The violence and murderous schemes in this story can be disconcerting. We don't want children to think that Saul's action and schemes were okay. They are not—and they should not be glorified in any re-tellings of the story. Instead, the emphasis should be that despite Saul's jealous anger, Jonathan and Michal found the courage to do and say what is right.

Children will understand the dilemma that Jonathan and Michal faced. They know that life is difficult and that sometimes it takes courage to do the right thing. Remind children that they may need to seek an adult's help if they want to address a difficult situation. Together, children and adults can work toward peace.

Here are conversation starters and next steps for following up with your child today:

1. **“Tell me about the Bible story about David today.”** Ask follow-up questions or help them fill in the details if they can't remember them all. You can look it up (see right).
2. **“If you were Jonathon and Michal, do you think you would have spoken up for David? Why or why not?”**
3. **“When have you spoken up for someone? When has someone spoken up to defend you?”**
4. **Pray with your child**, perhaps at dinner or bedtime. You can use the prayer starter to the right to begin. This is also a good time for them to recite their Bible memory verse from the day (right).

We have one day left ahead of us, and one more lesson about making peace!

—The Peace Lab team

FAITH FOCUS

Peacemakers speak up for what is right.

BIBLE STORY

1 Sam (18) 19-20

BIBLE MEMORY

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

—Mark 10:14b-16

PRAYER STARTER

God, give us courage to speak up for what is right, even if it is scary sometimes.



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Day 5: MARTHA AND MARY

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Today we focused on the well-known story about Mary and Martha. The story is of a sibling rivalry that has cultural implications. We infer from reading about Martha's many tasks that she wants to prepare a meal for Jesus, a usual hosting responsibility for women in her day and culture. Mary, however, chooses to ignore social boundaries and instead does what men of her day do—visit, talk, listen, and learn.

At first glance, it seems that this story does not fit a peacemaking theme. Yet a second look shows that conflict lies at the very heart of the story. Sometimes conflicts are larger than what we can handle on our own. Sometimes we need to ask for advice and help in solving a situation. This is what Martha does.

This story about siblings is one that many children will relate to. They might think of their own siblings, cousins, or friends with whom they sometimes have disagreements. When the disagreements get too large for them, children will run to an adult for help, saying something like, "Mom! Dad! Make him stop teasing me!" (or whatever the offense may be). The frequency of this may sometimes annoy adults, but it's important for children to recognize that sometimes it is good to ask someone else for help in finding a solution that works for everyone.

Here are conversation starters and next steps for following up with your child:

1. **"Tell me about the Bible story you heard today."** Ask follow-up questions or help them fill in the details if they can't remember them all. You can look it up (see right).
2. **"What are some situations of conflict you can handle by yourself? What are some situations you need to ask for help to solve?"**
3. **"Who do you trust that you can go to when you need to ask for help?"** Hopefully children will name a parent but you may prompt them to think of others too (a teacher, coach, trusted neighbor, etc.) in order to widen their circle of support.
4. **Pray with your child**, perhaps at dinner or bedtime. You can use the prayer starter to the right to begin. This is also a good time for them to recite their Bible memory verse from the day (right).

We have really appreciated having your child this year to share in the fun. If you don't already worship with us regularly, we invite you to join us for Sunday Mass. Thanks again for all you do parenting your child and sharing your faith.

—The *Peace Lab* team

FAITH FOCUS

Peacemakers ask for help to resolve conflicts.

BIBLE STORY

Luke 10:38-42

BIBLE MEMORY

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

—Romans 12:16-18

PRAYER STARTER

God, help us to not be afraid to ask for help when we need it to solve a problem peacefully.



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